

The Service's review and comment on the endangered species section of any environmental document could be expedited if it contained the following information:

1. A review of the literature and other information;
2. A description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action;
3. An analysis of the "effect of the action", as defined by CFR 402.02, on the species and habitat including consideration of direct, indirect, cumulative effects, and the results of related studies;
4. A description of the manner in which the action may affect any species or critical habitat;
5. Summary of evaluation criteria used as a measure of potential effects; and
6. Determination statement based on evaluation criteria.


The Service is particularly concerned about potential impacts the proposed project may have on stream ecosystems and associated wetlands within the study corridor. At least 2 stream and/or wetland crossings are present in the study corridor. Special care should be exercised in the design and implementation of all stream crossing structures.

The Service's review of any environmental document would be greatly facilitated if it contained the following information:

1. A description of the fishery and wildlife resources within existing and required additional right-of-way and any areas, such as borrow areas, which may be affected directly or indirectly by the proposed project.
2. A list and acreage of the wetland types which will be impacted. Wetland types should follow the wetland classification scheme of the National Wetlands Inventory. This list should also give the acreage of each wetland type to be affected by the project as determined by the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands.
3. Engineering techniques which will be employed for designing and constructing any wetland crossings and/or relocated stream channels along with the linear feet of any water courses to be relocated.
4. The cover types of upland areas and the acreage of each type which would be impacted by the proposed project.
5. Mitigation measures which will be employed to avoid, eliminate, reduce, or compensate for habitat value losses associated with the project. These measures should include plans for replacing unavoidable wetland losses.
6. The environmental impacts which are likely to occur after construction as a direct result of the proposed project (secondary impacts) and an assessment of the extent to which the proposed project will add to similar environmental impacts produced by other, completed projects in the area (cumulative impacts).

The Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. Please continue to advise us of the progress of this project, including your official determination of the impacts of this project. If our office can supply any additional information or clarification, please contact Kate Looney, the biologist reviewing this project, at 919-856-4520 (ext. 16).

Sincerely



L.K. Mike Gantt
Supervisor